

D2253

*Remarks*

Reconsideration of remaining claims 1-3, 8-12, 16 and 20-22 is respectfully requested.

In the Office action dated April 14, 2004, the Examiner found claims 1-3, 8-12, 16 and 20-22 to be in condition for allowance, and issued a rejection of claim 23. In response, applicants have cancelled claim 23 from this application, as noted in the above amendment to the claims. With this amendment, applicants believe that the case is now ready to issue and respectfully request an early and favorable response from the Examiner in that regard. If for some reason or other the Examiner does not agree that the case is ready to issue and that an interview or telephone conversation would further the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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